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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

Vol. XXVI. No. 9-10 Bethesda, Maryland 20014 September-October 1971

President Appoints Four New Regents

The Senate has confirmed President Nixon's nomination of two women medical librarians, the head of a state university, and a practicing physician for membership on the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine.

Mrs. Bernice M. Hetzner, Librarian of the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, and Susan N. Crawford, Ph.D., of Chicago, Director of the Archive-Library Department of the American Medical Association, were named to four-year terms expiring in August 1975. Mrs. Hetzner, currently the President of the Medical Library Association, is also professor of library science at Nebraska.

The President of the Florida State University in Tallahassee, J. Stanley Marshall, Ph.D., was selected to fill the unexpired term (until August 1974) of James C. Fletcher, Ph.D., who resigned to become administrator of NASA. Dr. Marshall joined the Florida State faculty in 1958 and became President in 1969.

Angelo M. May, M.D., of San Francisco, a 1937 graduate of George Washington University School of Medicine, was named to a full four-year membership on the Board. A general and thoracic surgeon, he is a former President of the American College of Angiology and of the California Chapter of the American College of Chest Physicians.

The new regents will attend the next meeting of the Board in Bethesda, November 22-23.

NLM to Introduce MEDLINE Service

Late in 1971, the National Library of Medicine will initiate a new service, MEDLINE (MEDLARS On-Line), to provide an on-line bibliographic searching capability for medical schools, medical libraries, hospitals, and research institutions throughout the country. MEDLINE will allow almost instantaneous searching of the medical literature.

The initial data base is to consist of all the articles in the top 239 medical journals indexed for MEDLARS since January 1, 1969, with over 130,000 citations. This data base will be expanded to cover over 1,000 journals and contain over 300,000 citations. MEDLINE will operate on the IBM 360/50 computer of the National Library of Medicine, with the capability of supporting up to 25 simultaneous users.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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The Library will use a data communication network to facilitate access to the service. The initial phase of the network will provide local numbers in Albany, New York; Cincinnati, Ohio; Atlanta, Georgia; Sacramento, California; Houston, Texas; and Denver, Colorado; special connecting lines will be extended from these network nodes to the Regional Medical Libraries and MEDLARS Search Centers. By January 1972, it is planned that the network will be extended so that the computer can be reached by a local call in at least twenty major cities.

Each user of the service will pay for his own terminal and telephone costs. The system will be accessible by teletype, TWX, IBM 2741, and other terminals operating at 100, 148, or 300 words per minute. In addition to paying terminal costs, user institutions will be required to send at least one person for training in the use of the system and, further, to provide bibliographic services to health professionals beyond their normal service responsibilities. A three-week pilot training program began at the Library on October 4 for 13 MEDLINE trainees. Subjects included indexing and vocabulary, general principles of computer searching, and on-line searching.

Development of MEDLINE has been spurred by the success of AIM-TWX (Abridged Index Medicus via the Teletypewriter Exchange Network), an experimental service developed in June 1970 by the System Development Corporation for the Library's Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications and the Library Operations staff of NLM. The AIM-TWX data base comprises citations to articles published in the last five years in 100 English-language journals in clinical medicine, plus a small number concerned with toxicology and other subjects. Now used by over 50 institutions, AIM-TWX continues to be of special value to many hospital libraries and other medical institutions.

For further information about MEDLINE or AIM-TWX service, write:

The Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications
National Library of Medicine
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

MLA Calls for Contributed Papers

The 71st Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association will be held in San Diego, California, June 11-15, 1972. Two general sessions for contributed papers are scheduled. No special themes have been assigned for either session except that papers should relate in some way to the focus of the conference as a whole

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on communication in the health sciences through information handling. The aim of the contributed sessions is to give individual MLA members an opportunity to present innovative aspects of the work in their libraries, problems in administration, training, technical or public services which have been successfully solved, research they may be engaged in, or results of thought and study on the role of medical librarianship in the communication of health information.

The Program Committee hopes that the papers selected will fall into natural groupings, but this is less important than the caliber and general interest of the individual papers. Oral presentations will be limited to 15 minutes, though papers for possible publication in the *Bulletin* may be of whatever length is practical. Time will be allotted for discussion from the floor and, where feasible, by designated discussants.

Association members are cordially invited, in fact urged, to submit papers for consideration for presentation. A letter of intent to do so and a short abstract of the paper should be sent by November 15, 1971, or earlier, to the Program Chairman: Louise Darling, Librarian, Biomedical Library, Center for the Health Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles, California 90024. The deadline for submission of completed papers is February 15, 1972.

Medical Instruction Via Satellite Saves Two Lives

The State of Alaska, the Library's Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, and NASA are engaged in a cooperative program to bring medical consultation and instruction to remote villages in Alaska (*News*, June 1971). Twenty-six terminals located in villages and hospitals have been equipped with VHF transmitters and receivers which can use NASA's ATS-I satellite in synchronous orbit over the Pacific Ocean for communication to central locations in Alaska. It was this equipment which enabled two Alaskan patients to receive emergency medical care without delay on September 30.

At 8:05 p.m., Alaska time, NASA received a telephone call from College, Alaska, asking that the satellite be made available for a medical emergency. The emergencies were reported at the end of a regular daily communication period when doctors at medical centers can speak with health aides in remote villages via satellite. Radio communication is extremely unreliable during periods of high ionospheric activity such as prevailed that day.

The College station, which provides central control for the Lister Hill Center's medical communications program, put a physician at Tanana in contact with a medical aide in Chalkyitsk village, where she was attending a woman who had gone into premature labor with severe bleeding and complications. The doctor instructed the aide on how to care for the patient until she could be evacuated to Tanana.

During this communication, a woman in the village of Anaktuvuk Pass was reported suffering from suspected acute appendicitis. The doctor at Tanana instructed a health aide, via the satellite, on treatment of the patient until her transfer to Fort Yukon could be arranged.

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The air strips at both villages are unlighted, and both stations were experiencing blowing snow and fog. Neither patient could be evacuated before first light on October 1. The doctor at Tanana believes that the patients survived thanks to the instruction in patient care conveyed to the health aides via satellite.

NLM Director Speaks on Scientific Publications

Current periodicals area in the new Medical Sciences Library at the University of Utah (Photo by Medical Illustration Service, U. of U.)

The scientific journal is a "costly and inefficient" form of communication that has survived because of reader dependency and profit-motivated publishers, the Director of the National Library of Medicine said in an address at the dedication of the new Medical Sciences Library of the University of Utah. Construction of the new library was supported in part by a grant of over $1 million from the National Library of Medicine, under a program authorized by the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965. (This construction grant program is no longer administered by NLM.)

"Most scientific publications contain trivial observations and re-discoveries, while redundancy of publication of the same subject by the same authors has become a common circumstance," Dr. Martin M. Cummings told an audience in Salt Lake City on October 4.

"With few exceptions, only the publisher and printer profit economically from scientific journal publication," he said. "Authors rarely get paid for their contributions. In fact, authors are sometimes required to pay page charges for the privilege of publishing."

Dr. Cummings estimated that about 16,000 scientific publications are today "viable and flood libraries with their incessant output." He said that half of these are substantive, non-parochial publications, but the rest are supported by advertising and have a primary profit motive.

"Those of us who assume the responsibility of indexing a large segment of scientific literature know the true size, weight, and character of this paper pollution," he said. "The arduous task of separating the good from the bad probably remains the

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responsibility of science itself."

Scientific communication previously based on a framework of paper has now been augumented by magnetic tape and by wire transmission, he said. "Writing and reading are now joined by listening, viewing, and speaking for more comprehensive communication. As science continues to proliferate at an exponential rate, we must prepare ourselves for additional new means of communication. A bibliographic apparatus to manage these new information forms is desperately needed."

Dr. Cummings has accepted an invitation to give the dedicatory address at ceremonies opening the new Lister Hill Library for the Health Sciences of the University of Alabama in Birmingham on October 19.

Major Role in Medical Education Urged for Lister Hill Center

A Duke University physician and teacher has urged medical institutions and their faculties to join with the Library's Lister Hill Center to make the national biomedical communications network a major force in education.

"The Lister Hill Center must play a catalytic role in bringing about the changes which will result in the use of a national biomedical educational system," Eugene A. Stead, Jr., M.D., professor of medicine at Duke, said in an editorial in the September issue of the *Journal of Medical Education*.

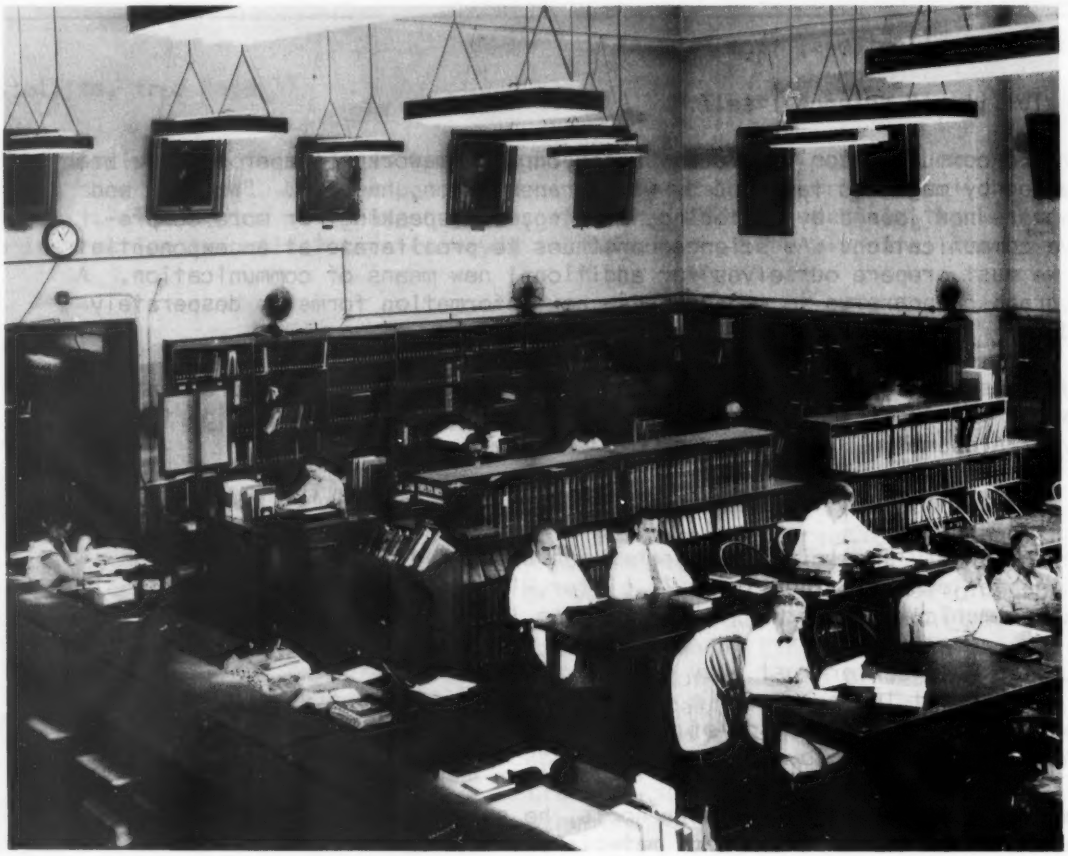
The Center will have to work with schools, he said, to encourage them to establish laboratories for the production of materials and to stimulate faculty members to seek careers in biomedical communications. He said that professional organizations can supply the manpower to assure the quality of the materials and their acceptability to users.

"Students weaned on television, accustomed to audiovisual material, and skilled in using the language and tools of the computer scientist are coming to our schools," Dr. Stead said. "Medical faculties know that the time has come to develop programs in their schools to use these new technologies in remedial education for entering students, in programs of self-education for undergraduate and graduate students, in programs for continuing education for practicing doctors, and in programs designed to modify our present methods of decision-making in many areas of clinical practice."

Dr. Stead is Chairman of the Council of Academic Societies of the Association of American Medical Colleges that completed an extensive report earlier this year, "Educational Technology for Medicine: Roles for the Lister Hill Center."

Correction

The editors apologize for the omission from the story on the Medical Library Association meeting (*News*, June 1971, page 3) of the names of three attendees. They are Margaret L. Brooks, Margaret Johnson, and Lourdes Antiga, all of the Library's National Medical Audiovisual Center in Atlanta.



The Reading Room in the Library's Independence Avenue quarters

Nineteen seventy-one marks the 135th anniversary of NLM's inception as the library of the Office of the Surgeon-General in 1836. It is also the tenth year since the dedication, in December 1961, of the Library's present building in Bethesda, Maryland. The Library is commemorating the occasion by mounting an exhibit depicting its history from the early years as a small collection of volumes to the present innovative programs utilizing high-speed computers and satellite communications.

The exhibit includes photographs and documents related to the various buildings that housed the Library's collections -- the old Riggs Bank, Ford's Theater, and the red brick building at 7th and Independence Ave., S. W., still remembered by many NLM readers. On display are memorabilia and portraits of John Shaw Billings, Robert Fletcher, and Fielding H. Garrison. Also featured are publications notable in the Library's history.

"One Hundred and Thirty-five Years of the National Library of Medicine" will be on display until January 28 during regular Library hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., and Saturday, 8:30 - 5:00 p.m.

NLM to Publish Sexennial Current Catalog

The *National Library of Medicine Current Catalog, 1965-1970*, is scheduled to appear, in eight casebound volumes, late November 1971. Available from the Superintendent of Documents for $71.75 ($80.00 foreign), the *Catalog* represents NLM's complete store of machine-readable cataloging through 1970, including the 1965 cataloging which NLM has also converted to its computer data base. One of the eight volumes consists of a subject and name catalog of technical reports, superseding the Technical Report Sections which have appeared in the annual volumes of the *Current Catalog* for the years 1968-1970.

Orders for the *NLM Current Catalog, 1965-1970*, may be placed immediately with the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. Remittance must be included with the order.

Five Associates Report to NLM

Five young librarians were welcomed to the National Library of Medicine early in September, to start their year of postgraduate training in the NLM Associate Program for 1971/72. They are (from left) Dr. Clair Webster Gudmundsen, Mrs. Jinnet Fowles Lewis, Mrs. Arlene Marie Aufderheide, Miss Paula Meise, and Dr. Joseph A. Vignone.

Dr. Gudmundsen, who holds a B.A. in Physics (1963) and a Ph.D. in Solid State Physics (1969) from Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, received a Master's degree in Library Science from that institution in 1971. Dr. Gudmundsen served as an instructor in the Department of Physics at Brigham Young.

Mrs. Lewis earned a B.A. in Art History from Wellesley College and an M.S. in Library Science from Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts. She has worked as a science reference librarian at the Boston Public Library.

Mrs. Aufderheide, a graduate of the City College of New York with a B.S. in Chemistry, received her M.L.S. in 1971 at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Her library experience includes employment in the Catalog and Acquisition Departments of her college library and work as a cataloger at the Medical Library Center of New York.

Miss Meise attended Wheaton College, where she received a B.S. in Biology, with a minor in French, in 1966; she earned an M.S.L.S. at Syracuse University in 1971. During three summers, Miss Meise worked as assistant newspaper librarian on the *Staten Island Advance*, and was high school librarian and teacher of biology, French, and ethics at the Marymount International School, Rome, Italy, from 1967 to 1970.

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Dr. Vignone holds a B.S. in Education from Duquesne University, and earned the M.L.S. and a Ph.D. in Library and Information Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh. His work experience includes four years as a teacher and audio-visual coordinator with the Pittsburgh School System, one summer as an instructor at the University of Pittsburgh's Institute on New Media in Library Education, and four years as Assistant Director of the Bureau of Urban Library Research at the University of Pittsburgh.

During the coming year, the new Associates will devote part of their time to academic study; they will also be afforded considerable practical experience in the various programs of modern health science librarianship, including specialized information services, computerized information storage and retrieval programs, multimedia reference services, and research in the application of advanced technology to the provision of biomedical information services. In addition to their work at the Library, the Associates will visit area medical and research libraries and information centers, and attend meetings of professional groups in the Washington metropolitan area.

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